# EDMONTON CIVIC OPERA SOCIETY





## Souvenir The EDMONTON CIVIC OPERA SOCIETY

Tenth Anniversary 1935 = 1945

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

The tenth anniversary of the Civic Opera Society marks a decade of unique service to this community.

Upon this occasion I am happy, on behalf of the people of Alberta, to extend sincere congratulations upon your achievements in the past and wish you all success in your future activities.

Your Society holds a place of great importance in the cultural life of this community, and one which deserves hearty commendation from all our citizens.

ERNEST C. MANNING,
Premier



ERNEST C. MANNING Premier

JOHN W. FRY Mayor

#### A MESSAGE FROM OUR HONORARY PRESIDENT

On behalf of the City of Edmonton I wish to congratulate the Edmonton Civic Opera Society on the celebration of its tenth anniversary.

During the past eight years it has been my privilege and pleasure to attend most of the performances given by your society and I have enjoyed every one of them. Your contribution to the cultural life of this City has been very much appreciated by our citizens and I am sure Edmonton music lovers will continue to give that support which your efforts so richly merit.

With sincere good wishes for the continued success of the Edmonton Civic Opera Society.

JOHN W. FRY, Mayor.

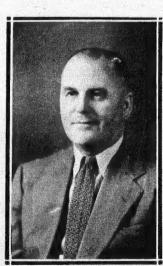
#### A MESSAGE FROM A NOTED MUSIC CRITIC

May I be permitted to extend to all members of the Edmonton Civic Opera Society my wholehearted and sincere congratulations on the tenth birthday anniversary of the organization, which has contributed immeasurably to the cultural and entertainment life of this city.

To Ivor Mathew, painstaking and indefatigable president, is due special praise for producing this valuable and informative record of achievement. Only those who have compiled data can appreciate the tremendous amount of work, meticulous attention to detail and infinite patience required to assemble it in attractive, readable form.

Keep up the good work.

JOHN OLIVER.



JOHN OLIVER Music Critic

## The Edmonton Civic Opera Society

#### INCORPORATED MAY, 1935

ANUARY 6th, 1935, was a bitterly cold night, but not cold enough to prevent a group of enthusiastic musicians meeting at the home of Mrs. J. B. Carmichael at 10012 106th Street, Edmonton, to discuss the formation of an Opera Society.

THERE were eight people at that meeting and they decided to form the Edmonton Civic Opera Society. It was thus launched for good or bad under the guidance of Mrs. Carmichael.



Our First President Mr. Harold Fazackerly

#### The first executive elected at a second meeting was as follows:

On January 19th, 1935, the exeuctive drew up the constitution of the Society, which was presented to the first general meeting held at the Empire Theatre, February 5th, 1935, and unanimously adopted.

On February 26th, 1935, steps were taken to have the Society incorporated, which was finally accomplished in May of the same year.

Since that time the Society has presented to Edmonton audiences six Grand Operas and eleven Musical Comedies, details of which will be recorded later on in this history.

Due to the untiring efforts of all members of the Society and the generous support of the public the Society has never looked back, but has set up a record of continuous progress both financially and artistically.

The following details are given to acquaint all interested with the Aims, Objects and Activities of our organization

#### AIMS AND OBJECTS

- 1. To promote a wider appreciation of the finer classical music and to train promising young musicians to greater achievements in their chosen field of endeavour.
- 2. To present high-class productions at a minimum cost to our patrons through the co-operative efforts of amateur talent.
- 3. To put forth every effort to give to the people of Edmonton and District the finest in talent, staging and costuming.
- 4. To award young vocalists of outstanding ability, scholarships that will enable them to continue their studies in the greater centres of art.

#### **ORGANIZATION**

The Society is governed by an executive of eleven who are responsible to the members for all phases of the work.

Directors are appointed annually by the executive and comprise: Musical Director, Dramatic Director, Chorus Director, and Directors of Publicity and Ballet. The Society has been most fortunate in the calibre of its directors.

The executive is elected annually by the members of the Society at the annual meeting held in May of each year.

Mrs. J. B. Carmichael has served with distinction as Musical Director continuously since the inception of the Society. We have been ably directed in dramatics by John Rule, Laurier Picard, and Chas. F. Sweetlove. Ballet has been in the capable hands of Dorothy Kinney Love, Marian Kinney Rouse Juneau Moore. The cast have been noted for their Chorus work, and these activities have been in charge of Henry Atack, Ralph Couper, Bessie Campbell Bowen, Imelda Olsen and Eileen McEachern.

#### MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Society requires an entry fee of \$3.00, there are no other annual dues or assessments. Members must remain active to hold their standing, unless leave of absence is given by the executive.



Mrs. J. B. Carmichael

There are usually a limited number of vacancies in both chorus and orchestra for aspirants with ability and promise according to the demands of the productions.

#### Some Interesting Facts and Figures

- 1. The attendance at our productions has grown from two night performances and a matinee in our early shows, to four night performances and a matinee, with a total attendance of over six thousand.
- 2. Admission prices have been kept consistently low and range from a top of \$1.25 to 50c each.
- 3. No officer, director or member of the Society receives remuneration for their services, but the by-laws permit of an honorarium being paid for special services such as Secretary or Treasurer.
- 4. \$2,500.00 has been paid over to War Charities in recent years, in addition funds have been made available to supply the officers and men of H.M.C.S. Stettler with extra comforts and luxuries. This work was continued until the ship was decommissioned late in 1945.

- 5. A number of scholarships, valued at \$300.00 each have been awarded to young musicians to enable them to continue their studies. A reserve has been set aside to provide additional scholarships as soon as conditions make this possible.
- 6. Many of our young members, who made their mark before Edmonton audiences through the medium of the Edmonton Civic Opera Society, have graduated to higher spheres of endeavour. Among these are: Dorothy Blackwell Gardner, Egon Grapentin, Noreen Bristow, Jean Braschuk, and Shirley Neher. The last three named held leading roles last season with "The Theatre Under the Stars," Vancouver, B.C., and have received high praise from the critics for their work. A number of our past members have given yoemen services in the field of entertainment by becoming members of the Armed Services Theatre Groups.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

PATRONS sitting in the audience have little idea of the amount of effort required behind the scenes to produce the high standard of performance for which The Edmonton Civic Opera has become noted. This history of the Society's activities would not be complete without mention of and tribute being paid to these modest unsuing heroes of the show. Among these should be mentioned the directors and leads who are on the job five and six nights a week, not to mention Sunday afternoons, for the 10 to 12 weeks it takes to produce one of our shows; the loyal and regular attendance of the cast of 75 or more at rehearsals two and three times a week; Mallabar for their untiring efforts in costuming our productions; the creators and designers of our scenery and stage effects, who have carried on during a very difficult period; Roland Huggett, our property Master, who has always produced the "rabbit out of the hat," whether it be an amorous letter, a wicked looking dagger, a piece of period furniture or some rare antique; the Orchestra who have so ably supported the cast and who have always made such an important contribution to our success; the wardrobe mistress and her assistants who have been responsible for several thousand dollars worth of costumes at each production.

We are indebted to Edmonton department stores, furniture stores, and many others who have never failed us and have loaned, on many occasions, valuable properties of all kinds without charge.

All our rehearsal and musical material is supplied by and Copyright Owners' permission obtained through Century Library Inc., and Tams-Witmard Music Library, New York; Tracy Music Library, Inc., Boston, Mass, and Samuel French (Canada) Toronto Ontario.

#### OFFICERS 1935 to 1946

YEAR	PRESIDENTS	VICE-PRESIDENTS	SECRETARIES	TREASURERS
1935-36	Harold Fazackerly	Miss Lutie Jessup	Arnold Gardner	Jas. Thomson
1936-37	W. Wallace Howe	Roland Huggett	Miss B. Mercier	Jas. Thomson
1937-38	. W. Wallace Howe	Roland Huggett	Miss B. Mercier	H. C. Graham
1938-39	. Roland Huggett	Joseph Nadeau	Miss B. Mercier	Offa Rogers
1939-40	Roland Huggett	Joseph Nadeau	Miss B. Mercier	Offa Rogers
1940-41	Jas. M. Thomson	Wallace Young	Miss B. Mercier	Chas. Huntsley
1941-42	Roland Huggett	Ivor Mathew	Miss B. Mercier	R. Allan Scott
1942-43	A. Ivor Mathew	Alex. MoIntosh	Miss B. Mercier	Edward King
1943-44	Joseph Nadeau	Roland Huggett	Miss B. Mercier	Edward King
1944-45		Roland Huggett	Miss B. Mercier	Edward King
1945-46	A. Ivor Mathew	Maurice Rookwood	Miss B. Mercier	Edward King

#### DIRECTORS OF THE SOCIETY, 1935 to 1946

MUSICAL I	DRAMATICS	PROPERTIES	ADVERTISING
Mrs J. B. Carmichael	John Rule	Nicholas Alexieff	Victor Hicks
j	Chas. Sweetlove	Roland Huggett	Herbert Ingram
1	Laurier Picard	l	A. S. Wootlard
CHORUS		1	Thos. Tasker
Ralph Couper			
Henry Atack	BALLET	WARDROBE	
Bessie Campbell Bowen	Dorothy Kinney Love	Mrs Veronica Nadeau	BOX OFFICE
Imelda Olsen	Marian Kinney Rouse	Beatrice Nadeau	Thos. Tasker
Eileen McEachern	Juneau Moore	Mrs. M. Ross	Geo. Wells

### Maritana

Book by EDWARD FITZBALL

Music by W. VINCENT WALLACE

A Romantic Opera in Three Acts

Empire Theatre, April 26th and 27th, 1935

An Opera with a Spanish Background







Violet Cumming, Arnold Gardner, Bessie Pilkie Hudson, Delbert MacFarland, Wm. C. Cromb Etta Manuel Petch Wm. Angus

#### PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS

MARITANA Etta Manuel Petch
CHARLES II, KING OF SPAIN
DON LOCE DE CANTA DENIA
DON JOSE DE SANTARENA William Angus DON CAESAR DE BAZAN William Cromb
DUN CAESAK DE DAY AIN
HOSTESS OF THE INN
LAZARILLO
BOAIMAN
CAPTAIN OF THE GUARDS
CAPTAIN OF THE GUARDS George Perring ALCADE Roland Huggett MARQUIS DE MONTEFIORE Arnold Gardner
MARQUIS DE MONTEFIOREArnold Gardner
MARCHIONESS DE MONTEFIORE
A NOBLEStanley Clarke

Musical Director, Mrs. J. B. Carmichael Chorus Director, Henry Atack **Ballet,** Dorothy Kinney

Dramatic Director, John Rule

"MARITANA," the Society's premiere production, was very well received by the Edmonton public. Besides twelve principles there was a chorus of 38 and an orchestra of 30. The support accorded this production encouraged the Society to continue, and bend every effort to improve and enlarge their activities.

Violet Cumming as Azucena

Il Trovatore

(VERDI)

**EMPIRE THEATRE NOVEMBER** 13th and 14th 1936



#### Principal Characters

FERRANDOJohn Rule and James Thompson	
LEONORA	
INEZ	
COUNT DE LUNA	
MANRICO William Cromb and Joseph Nadeau	
AZUCENAThelma Nehring and Violet Cummings	
AN OLD GYPSYJohn Radamaker	
MESSENGER Laurier Picard	
RUIZ Alexander McIntosh and James Dick	

Where two names are mentioned for one character the performances were divided between the players.

Musical Director, Mrs. J. B. Carmichael

Dramatic Director, John Rule



The number one soldier, Lennox Buchanan, marched on the stage, as he thought, at the head of his company. Glancing back he discovered he was entirely alone, the company having failed to follow him. He nonchalantly continued across the stage to the wings on the other side and carried off very well what might have been an embarrassing situation.

In the spring of this same year the Society in cooperation with Robertson United Church presented Handel's "SAMSON" in concert form with orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Henry Atack.









Wm. Angus as Count De Luna

## The Red Mill

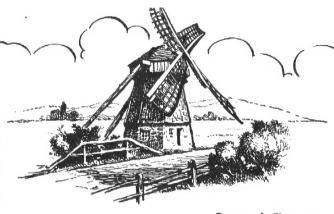
A Musical Comedy in Two Acts

with the

#### SETTING IN HOLLAND

Libretto by HENRY BLOSSOM

> EMPIRE THEATRE



Music by
VICTOR HERBERT

APRIL 3rd & 4th



Betty Cunningham as Gretchen

Musical Director, Mrs. J. B. Carmichael

#### Principal Characters

WILLEM, KEEPER OF THE INN.....Robert J. Ratcliffe FRANZ, SHERIFF.................Robert J. Eby

BURGOMASTER ..... Chas. Sweetlove

BERTHA ..... Betty Shaw and Doris Hicks

GRETCHEN ... Betty Cunningham and Irene Campbell CON KIDDER ... Laurier Picard and Wally Young KID CONNER ... Stuart Carson and Earle Davidson CAPTAIN DORIC VAN DAMM ... A. MacIntosh and Frank Williams

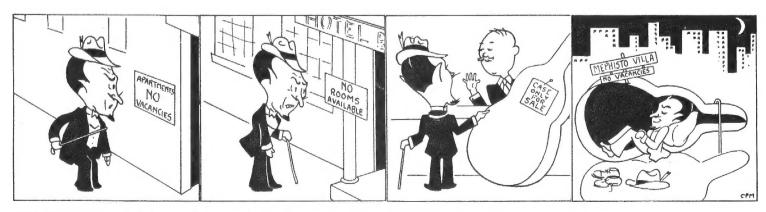
JOSHUA PENNYFEATHER . . . . Robert Shaw and C. H. Norminton COUNTESS DE LA FERRE . . . . . Berengere Mercier and Edith Rocque

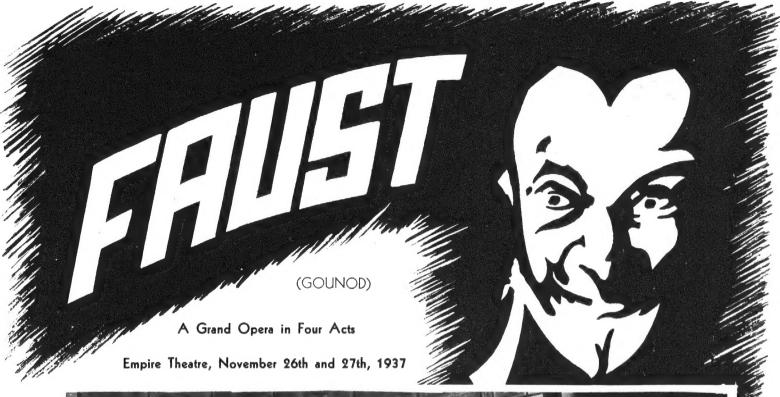
GOVERNOR OF ZEELAND.....Norman Taylor
NOTARY.....L. G. Thomlin
SOLO DANCER.....Ruth Carse

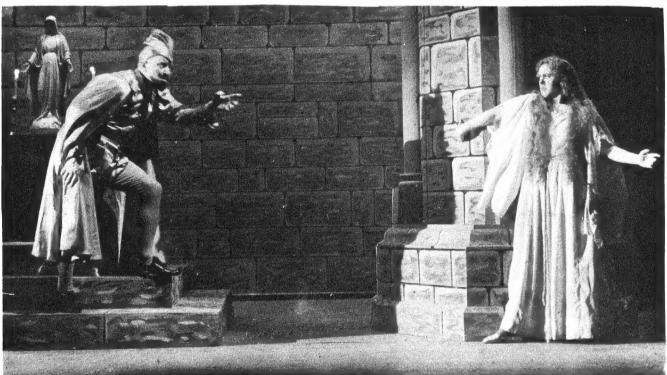
A double cast was chosen for many of the parts to give greater opportunity to more members to develop their talent. The comedy was outstanding and delighted the audience.

Dramatic Director, John Rule Chorus Director, Ralph Couper **Ballet,** Miss Dorothy Kinney









William Angus as Mephistopheles

Noreen Bristow as Marguerita

#### Principal Characters

MARGUERITA	. Katherine Gardner and Noreen Bristow
MARTHA	Roxyna Phillips
SIEBEL	
FAUST	. Joseph Nadeau
MEPHISTOPHELES	. William Angus
VALENTINE	Phillip Knowles and Lennox Buchanan
WAGNER	Marlais Davies and Stuart Carson

Musical Director, Mrs. J. B. Carmichael Dramatic Director, John Rule Chorus Director, Henry Atack **Ballet,** Dorothy Kinney

Fine Chorus work with a chorus of over 60 voices, an outstanding double cast and a top-notch orchestra combined to make this one of the best efforts of the Society. The Production received a very full and favourable write-up in the "Toronto Saturday Night" in which the remarkable picture shown above was used.

## he Student Prince

A spectacular Light Opera in Four Acts

Lyrics by DOROTHY DONNELLY

Music by SIGMUND ROMBERG

Empire Theatre, March 18th and 19th, 1938



#### PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS

PRINCE KARL FRANZ	Joseph Nadeau
KATHIE	Noreen Bristow
DR. ENGEL	Offa Rogers
LUCAS	Stirling Cleland
VON ASTERBERG	Stuart Carson
DETLEFF	Joseph Prefontaine
GRETCHEN	Mrs. Robert Shaw
LUTZ	Robert Eby
RUDER	Laurier Picard
PRINCESS MARGARET	Cathryn Zender
CAPTAIN TARNITZ	R. Gordon Wright
NICHOLAS	J. Thomson
HUBERT	Marlais Davis
GRAND DUCHESS ANASTASIA	Mrs. J. S. MacCavery
COUNTESS LEYDON	Gabrielle Hervieux
von Mark	John Tyler
BARON ARNHEIM	Roland Huggett
TONI	John U. Rule
RUDOLPH WINTER	
	- 150 x 81 25 71 7 1 1 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

'DRINKING SONG"—with Noreen Bristow starring as Kathie

Musical Director, Mrs. J. B. Carmichael Dramatic Directors, John Rule, Laurier Picard Chorus Director,

Henry Atack

#### TWO UNUSUAL INCIDENTS . . .

During a hilarious scene with the students, part of the fun was to toss a student in a blanket. The lads went to it with a will and on the first performance tossed Ronnie Hewlett so high and vigorously that the blanket ripped and dumped the luckless student heavily on the stage. He was badly shaken up and required the attendance of a physician but nobly carried on for the remainder of that performance and the rest of the shows. Needless to say a stronger blanket and less vigor were used from then on. Ronnie Hewlett left the Society to join the armed forces. He was overseas three years and was returned to Canada as a special instructor. During excercises at Petawawa Camp a bakelite bomb exploded and Ronnie lost the sight of both eyes. A real trooper in the Opera Society became a real trooper in civilian life. Many others meeting with such a terrible accident would have lost all hope, but not so Ronnie. He is being specially trained for Field Secretarial work for the Canadian Institute for the Blind and reports from his mother inform us that he is very happy and anticipating his new career. We wish Ronnie every success and the very best of luck.

The second incident was also an accident and occurred at dress rehearsal. At the scene where the Tavern Keeper awakes from a short sleep and exclaims loudly, 'One o'clock!" The stage clock immediately struck just as loudly, "three o'clock. Hilarity among the cast just about stopped the show and the Directors thought the incident so good that they intentionally carried it into the actual performances. Their judgment was sound, the audience took it up with enthusiasm every time.

Excerpt from Edmonton Journal, Aarch 19th, 1935:

"Crowds turned away as huge audience acclaim "The Student Prince."

Ballet, Dorothy Kinney

Marlais Davis as Hubert. Mrs. J. S. McCavery as

Grand Duchess Anastasia.

Laurier Picard as Ruder.

Noreen Bristow as Kathie

Jos. Nadeau as Prince Karl Franz



A good show thoroughly enjoyed by the cast and the public propositions are public propositions and the public propositions and the public propositions are public propositions and the public propositions and the public propositions are public propositions and the publi Martha

(FR. VON FLOTOW)

Empire Theatre, November 25th and 26th, 1938

A GRAND OPERA IN FOUR ACTS



Musical Director

Mrs. J. B. Carmichael

Dramatic Director John Rule

Ballet

Miss Marian Kinney

Chorus Director Henry Atack



SCENE 2: The Fair at Richmond



#### Principal Characters

LADY HARRIET ... Eleanor MacPhee and Ethel McIntosh
NANCY ... Irene Stirton and Nan Stott
SIR TRISTOM ... Lin Jordan
PLUNKETT ... Phillip Knowles and Ken MacLaren
LIONEL ... Wm. Smith and Joe Rocks
SHERIFF ... George Perring



"Martha" was a success artistically and financially. Although not so well known by Edmonton audiences it is a great favorite on the repertoire of the Metropolitan and Chicago opera houses. Lionel, the tenor part, was one of Caruso's favorite roles.

Eleanor MacPhee as Lady Harriet, Wm. Smith as Lionel

An important discovery of this production was Joseph Rocks who sang the leading tenor role for the Saturday night performance. His listeners were enhanced with his artistic singing and portrayal of the role. All who heard him predicted he would go far if given the opportunity.

Mr. Rocks has been in the armed forces "Tin Hats" Concert Group for some years now and from all reports he has gone a long way in his chosen profession. Even though people might not associate theatre groups with danger and the public not realize it, the boys and girls taking part in theatricals for the entertainment of the troops frequently risk their lives as much as the front line soldiers. Mr. Rocks and his party's ship was torpedoed while travelling across the English Channel. Several lives were lost and many were injured, but this did not prevent the group from carrying on with their duties.



## The Desert Song

Music by Sigmund Romberg

Empire Theatre, March 24th and 25th, 1939

#### Principal Characters

SID EL KAR	. Joseph Prefontaine
KINDAR	. Charles Whyte
HASSI	. James Thomson
BENJAMIN KIDD	. Laurier Picard
CAPTAIN PAUL FONTAINE	. Philip Carter
AZURI	
LIEUT. LA VERGNE	
SERGEANT DU BASSAC	
MARGOT BONVALET	
GENERAL BIRABEAU	
PIERRE BIRABEAU	•
SUSAN	
EDITH	
ALI BEN ALI	
CLEMENTINA	•
NERI	
HADJI	.Offa Rogers

Musical Director, Mrs. J. B. Carmichael Dramatic Director, John Rule

Chorus Director, Bessie Campbell Bowen **Ballet,** Marian Kinney

"The Desert Song" was a beautiful show; scenery, stage setting, and light effects were excellent. The public was most enthusiastic. The work of the principals was highly commended and it would be difficult to single out any one artist but the work of Gabrielle Hervieux as Azuri will long be remembered.











## Blossom Jime

#### A MUSICAL PLAY IN THREE ACTS

Books and Lyrics by Dorothy Donnelly.

Music: After the melodies of Franz Schubert and H. Berto, by SIGMUND ROMBERG.

EMPIRE THEATRE, MARCH 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th, 1940



#### Principal Characters

ANDREAS KUPELWEISER . Offa V. Rogers
JOHANN MICHAEL VOGL . Joseph Prefontaine
MORITZ VON SCHWIND . James Thomson
GRETA (a flower girl) . Irene Stirton
BELLABRUNA . Gabrielle Hervieux
COUNT SCHARNTOFF . Paul Hervieux
FRANZ SCHUBERT . John Rule
MITZI KRANZ . Jean Braschuk
FRITZI KRANZ . Cathryn Zender
KITZI KRANZ . Enid Griffith KITZI KRANZ Enid Griffith
ERKMAN Lennox Buchanan BINDER...... WAITER..... Phillip Carter
Horace Herlihy CHRISTIAN KRANZ Robert Eby BARON SCHOBER ... Joseph Nadeau ROSI ....Joan Keen MRS. KRANZ THE VIOLINIST NOVOTNY .....Jacquie Battersby ......Nolan Henderson .... Laurier Picard MRS. COBURG.. ..... Emilie Cormie

Musical Director, Mrs. J. B. Carmichael.

Chorus Director Henry Atack. Dramatic Director, Chas. F. Sweetlove.

> Ballet, Miss Marian Kinney.



Phillip Carter as Binder. Lennox Buchanan as Erkman.





Nolan Henderson, the Violinist.



Opera Star: "Yes, 20 long years I have sung in ze Metropolitan."

Admirer: "Gee, you must have known Madame Butterfly when she was only a caterpillar."

### Blossom Time

#### A MUSICAL PLAY IN THREE ACTS

"Blossom Time" was the Society's first venture in playing for four nights and a matinee.

It was presented in co-operation with the Rotary Club, and played to packed houses for the whole five performances.

This appealing musical play which tells the story of the life of Franz Schubert, and so closely followed by Sigmund Romberg, was ably presented by the cast. Special mention should be made of the work of the Orchestra in this production.

It was a success financially, a goodly sum was turned over to Rotary for their work and the Society had a substantial amount for their own work.





John Rule as Franz Schubert

#### Photographic Hi-Lights

- (1) Offa Rogers as Kupelweiser.
  Jas. Thomson as Moritz Von Schwind.
- (2) Paul Hervieux as Count Scharntoff.
- (3) Robert Eby as Christian Kranz.
- (4) Cathryn Zender as Fritzi Kranz. Enid Griffith as Kitzi Kranz.







He: "Yes, I learned to play entirely by ear."

She: "Haven't you ever had the ear-ache?"

### Carmen

A GRAND OPERA IN FOUR ACTS

By

**GEORGES BIZET** 

EMPIRE THEATRE, NOVEMBER 21st, 22nd and 23rd, 1940



#### Principal Characters

DON JOSE ... Joseph Nadeau
ESCAMILLO ... George Perring
ZUNIGA ... Paul Hervieux
MORALES ... Patrick James
CARMEN ... Dorothy Blackwell Gardner
MICAELA ... Cathryn Zender and
Jean Braschuk
FRASQUITA ... Emily Cormie and Vivian

MERCEDES ..... Marie Adkisson and Ethel MacIntosh
EL DANCAIRO ....Leslie Burrows and Laurier

Picard
EL RAMANDADO . Robert Shaw and Harold
Fazackerley

THE ALCALDE.....Leslie Murphy

Musical Director, Dramatic Director,
Mrs. J. B. Carmichael. John Rule.

Chorus Director, Ballet, Bessie Campbell Bc ven. Marian Kinney.

#### Dorothy Blackwell Gardner as "Carmen"

This production was highlighted by the outstanding performance of Dorothy Blackwell Gardner. Dorothy was a familiar figure to Edmonton audiences prior to 1935 but had left Edmonton for Eastern U.S.A. to continue her singing career. While in New York she met and married Mr. John Gardner, and continued her studies there after her marriage. As Dorothy was one of our first prodigies the Directors thought it would interest Edmonton people to hear her again after her several years studies in the U.S.A. and she was brought back to play the leading role of Carmen, a part she had played with great success before in Edmonton prior to the formation of The Edmonton Civic Opera Society.

The Directors were right, Edmonton did want to see her again, and taxed the capacity of the Empire Theatre to gratify their desire. Dorothy did not disappoint them and turned in a very fine performance, ably supported by the double cast of principals and the whole company.

"Carmen" was a production that will be long remembered.



Stage Setting, Act IV

The profits from "Carmen" were given to the Canadian Red Cross for the purchase of an Ambulance





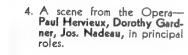
A DRAMATIC SCENE IN ACT III



- 1. Jean Braschuk as "Micaela,"
- Cathryn Zender as "Micaela," a village maiden.











## Naughty Marietta

A Comic Opera in Two Acts with a New Orleans Setting



PAUL HERVIEUX as Etienne Grandet

Book and Lyrics by RIDA JOHNSON YOUNG Music by VICTOR HERBERT

Empire Theatre, March 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 1941

"Naughty Marietta" was the second performance produced under the combined auspices of the Edmonton Opera Society and the Rotary Club and was very well received by the public.

The characters of Lieut.-Governor Grandet and Etienne Grandet are father and son parts and were actually taken by Alphonse Hervieux and his son, Paul.

Music Director, Mrs. J. B. Carmichael

Chorus Director, Bessie Campbell Bowen Dramatic Director, John Rule

**Ballet,** Marian Kinney



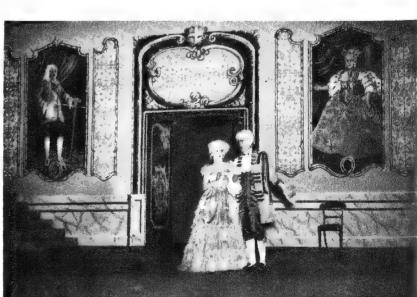
ALPHONSE HERVIEUX as Lieut. - Governor Grandet



#### Principal Characters

CAPTAIN RICHARD WARRINGTON. Joseph Prefontaine LIEUT.-GOVERNOR GRANDET ... Alphonse Hervieux ETIENNE BRANDET .... SIR HARRY BLAKE SIMON O'HARA RUDOLFO ..... FLORENZE LIZETTE.. NANETTE... FELICE FANCHON....NIGHT WATCHMAN FIRST PIRATE... SECOND PIRATE EAST INDIAN:
CONTESSA MARIETTA D'ALTENA:
ACCORDIONIST, in Act II R. Dunbar

.. Alphonse Hervieux . Paul Hervieux ... Chas. W. Turner Laurier Picard Robert Eby, Robert Shaw Betty Reilly Shaw Gabrielle Hervieux Thelma Rice Edith Rocque Betty Mason James Thomson Romeo Bouchard Richard Whitaker Robert Janes James Thomson Noreen Bristow



Noreen Bistow and Paul Hervieux in Act II, Scene II



The Ballroom Scene in Act II

### The Chocolate Soldier

#### A COMIC OPERA IN THREE ACTS

#### Written by

Rudolph Bernauer and Leopold Jacks

English Version by Stanislaus Stange

Music by Oscar Strauss

#### EMPIRE THEATRE, NOVEMBER 6th, 7th, 8th, 1941



Noreen Bristow as Nadina



Rennie Frederking as Alexius Sparidoff



John Markle as Casimir Popoff



#### Principal Characters

NADINA Noreen Bristow
AURELIA Veronica Nadeau
MASCHA Jean Braschuk
BUMERLI Joseph Nadeau
MASSAKROFF Paul Hervieux
ALEXIUS SPARIDOFL Renard Frederking
CASIMIR POPOFFJohn Markle
STEPHAN Laurier Picard
LUKA Nan Stott

Musical Director, Mrs. J. B. Carmichael Dramatic Director, John Rule

Chorus Director, Henry Atack

Ballet,

Marian Kinney Rouse

A \$1,000.00 donation was made on December 1st to the Queen's Canadian Fund for British Air Raid Victims.



Jos. Nadeau as Bumerli

Jean Braschuk as Mascha Veronica Nadeau as Aurelia

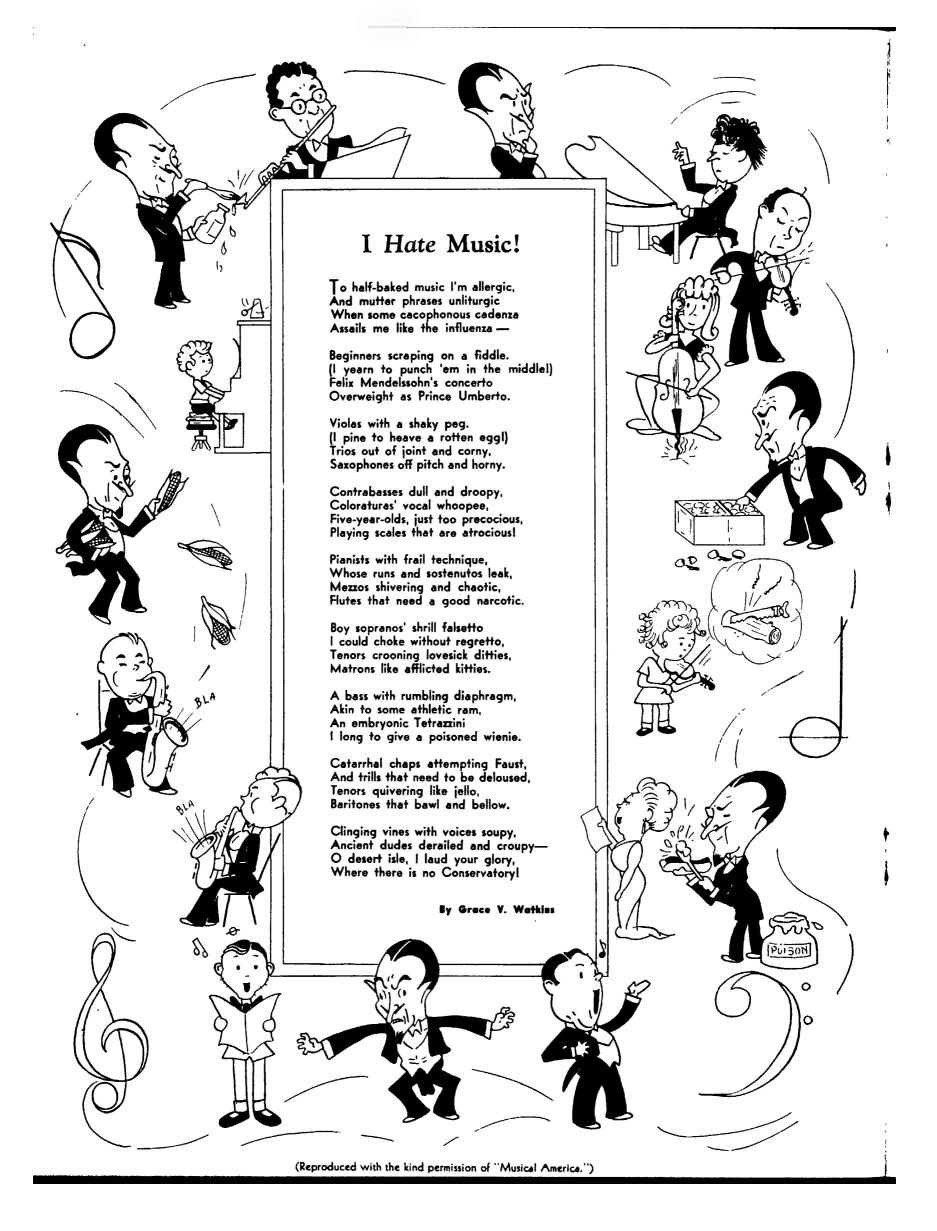
> The scene of this colorful and popular opera is laid in Bulgaria, 1885, and was one of our most popular productions in the comic opera field. The comedy, which is an important part of this old favorite, was handled with great skill by Laurier Picard, and John Markle's portrayal of Casimir Popoff, the pompous colonel, was delightful, but it is hard to mention individuals, as the principals in this show all turned in a yeoman performance and were well supported by the entire cast.

Medical officer: "Have you any organic trouble?" Recruit: "No, sir, I ain't a bit musical."

Judge: "It seems to me I have seen you before."

"You have, your honor; it was I who taught your daughter to play the piano."

Judge: "Thirty years!"



## Honour Roll

Names of our Members who served in the Armed Forces

Alexander, Louis Angus, Wm Ball, Richard, Jr. Bow, Malcolm Burrows, Les Carson, Stuart Cartmel, Nick Clark, Malcolm Couper, Olive Couper, Winnifred Cromb, Wm T Currie, Robert Davies, Tom Eager, Alan Ellens, Fred Field, Harris Frederking, Rennie Geldart, Gordon Hamilton, Sam Harris, Sam (USA) Henderson, Nolan Herlihy, Horace

Hervieux, Paul Hewlett, Ronnie Holland, Mervin Ingram, Herbert †Jackson, George James, Patrick James, Robert Janes, Wm King, Max King, Wallace Kingsfather, A (U.S.A.) Kirkwood, Edward Lindskoog, Ted MacDonald, Ian MacLaren, Ken Mathew, Frank Noel, J W Newlove, Vernon Norbury, Hubert Norrington, Harvey Phillips, Ross Robertson, William

Robinson, Howard Rocks, Joseph Rogers, Delbert Ross, P. Rule, John W †Scott, Robert Allan Sharum, Ted Shaw, Betty Reilly Shillabeer, Walter Superstein, Larry Sweetlove, Chas C Thomson, James Thumath, Gordon Tyler, John Warham, William Whitaker, Richard White, Chas Wright, Gordon Young, Irene Little Young, Wallace

† Indicates Members who have paid the Supreme Sacrifice

The Society recently learned to its deep regret that one of our members and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. J. MacCavery, were killed in an Air Raid in Liverpool, England, in 1942. Mrs. MacCavery was a valued and talented member of the Society and played several leading roles in our productions prior to 1939 when she returned to England with her husband.

#### A Prayer

Lord God of Hosts, to Thee we offer up our deep thanksgiving for victory in battle, rejoicing that by Thy aid an enemy to Thee and civilized mankind is vanquished. With humility, we remember before Thee the men, women and children, civilian and soldier, who have given their lives for liberty. Let Thy light perpetual shine upon them, and may we, as trustees of their sacrifice, administer. Thy justice with equity and righteousness. Save us from pride and vainglory, and keep us ever mindful of our obligations to Thee and to our fellow men. Grant peace in our time and for all time, O Lord.

#### NAMES OF CHARTER MEMBERS STILL ACTIVE IN THE SOCIETY

Jacquie Battersby
Mrs. J. B. Carmichael
Roland Huggett
Berangere Mercie
Emelie Paradis
George Perring
Laurier Picard
John Rule
Robert Shore
Winnie Woodward

ORCHESTRA George McBride Dr. K. A. Clarke J. Chadwick

#### **OBITUARIES**

Members who have passed away during the 10 years of the Society's existence:

Betty Cunningham
Richard Lovette
Agnes MacCavery
A. E. Samuels
William Watson
H. Wallace Howe
George Jackson (killed in action)
Alphonse Hervieux
Robert Allan Scott (killed in action)
Wallace Young (killed in action)

Members of the Society have assisted visiting companies in their Edmonton productions, among which we mention The San Carlo Grand Opera Society in "Faust," "Il Trovatore," "Aida," and others. The English Light Opera Company in "Merry England."

## The Vagabond King

Book and Lyrics by W. H. POST and BRIAN HOOKER Music by RUDOLF FRIML



A Musical Play in Four Parts Based on Justin Huntley McCarthy's "If I Were King" The entire action takes place in Old Paris at the time of Louis XI.

#### EMPIRE THEATRE, MARCH 26th, 27th, 28th, 1942

RENE DE MONTIGNY	James Thomson
CASIN CHOLET	
MARGOT	Marie Adkisson
ISABEAU	Nanette Stott
JEHANNETON	Enid Griffith
JEHAN LE LOUP	. Harold Fazackerley
HUGUETTE DU HAMEL	.Gabrielle Guy
GUY TABARIE TRISTAN L'HERMITE LOUIS XI	Laurier Picard
TRISTAN L'HERMITE	John Markle
LOUIS XI	Paul Hervieux
FRANCOIS VILLON	. Joseph Nadeau
KATHERINE DE VAUCELLES	Noreen Bristow
THIBAUT D'ASSIGNY	.Fred Bowden
CAPTAIN OF THE SCOTCH ARCHERS	Malcolm Clark
LADY MARY	
NOEL LE JOLYS	Rennie Frederking
OLIVER LE DAIN	. James Richardson
TOISON D'OR, BURGUNDIAN HERALD AND ASTROLOGER	
BURGUNDIAN STANDARD BEARER	
THE QUEEN	Edith Rocque
THE BISHOP	Dwight Robinson
THE HANGMAN	Richard S Ball

5 Dancers, 51 Chorus Members, 8 Scotch Archers, 32 in Orchestra

Musical Director, Mrs. J. B. Carmichael Dramatic Director,

Chorus Director,

John Rule

Henry Atack

Marian Kinney Rouse



"VAGABOND KING" was a very ambitious show, as the large list of Principals, Dancers, Chorus members, Archers and Orchestra members indicate. While it was very successful artistically, it was not so successful financially. This was due to the very heavy expense involved and not lack of patronage. Mr. John Rule surpassed himself in original stage designs and settings. The scenery produced by James Lynch was the talk of the town. Many of our Principals made names for themselves; special mention should be made of Noreen Bristow, Jean Braschuk, Gabrielle Guy, John Markle, Laurier Picard and Joseph Nadeau. A remarkable show, very satisfying, even if it was not a moneymaker.



# Interesting Character Pictures from the Vagabond King











1-9-4-2

- 1. JEAN BRASCHUK as Lady Mary.
- 2. NOREEN BRISTOW as Katherine De Vaucelles.

JOS. NADEAU as François Villon.

- 3. LAURIER PICARD as Guy Tabarie.
- 4. RHODA WOOD Ballet.
- 5. HENRY ATACK, our talented Chorus Director.

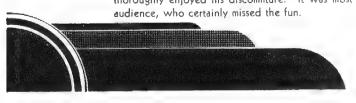


THREE AMUSING INCIDENTS THAT ENLIVENED THE SHOW

At the hangman's scene Mr. R. S. Ball, who was officiating at the dress rehearsal, forgot to remove the rope from the neck of Francois Villon (Joe Nadeau), who stepped down from the scaffold with the rope still around his neck. A mock hanging almost became a real one.

At the matinee the leading lady, for apparently no good reason, omitted a feature solo. There was consternation among Orchestra, Chorus and Company, but quick action on the part of the Musical Director and quick perception on the part of Paul Hervieux (as Louis XI) saved the day and the performance went merrily on.

J. Merwyn Boucher as the astrologer had a very sad accident—he fell from the stars. While on the balcony reading the stars he turned to walk off and fell from the heavens to the very solid earth. The cast backstage thoroughly enjoyed his discomfiture. It was most unfortunate, however, that the fall was not visible to the audience, who certainly missed the fun.





A Comic Opera in Two Acts

Music by LESLIE STUART

#### EMPIRE THEATRE, NOVEMBER 19th, 20th, 21st, 1942

#### Principal Characters

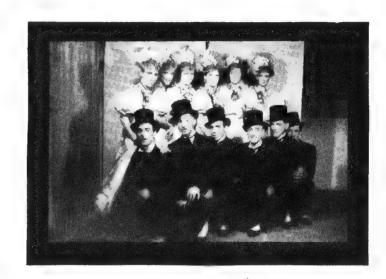
FRANK ABERCOED	Wreford B. Johnston
DOLORES	Jean Braschuk
LADY HOLYROOD	Noreen Bristow
CYRUS GILFAIN	John Markle
CAPTAIN ARTHUR DONEGAL	Joseph Nadeau
ANGELA GILFAIN	Betty McCaskell
ANTHONY TWEEDLEPUNCH	Robert Eby
LEANDRO	
VALLEDA	Rose Ouellet
EARNEST PYM	Robert Shaw
SECRETARY TO GILFAIN	Marie Adkisson
INEZ	Betty Mason
CALISTA	Annette Brissette
CYNTHIA BELMONT	Jacquie Battersby

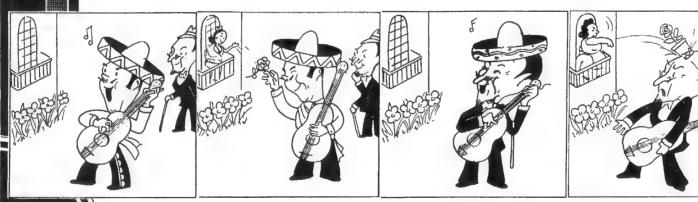
#### THE SEXTETTE

Left to right:

Girls—Helen Trimble, Betty Markle, Margo Robertson, Nan Stott, Betty Glockzen, Jacquie Battersby.

Boys—Pat Brown, Rennie Frederking, Gerald R. Stephens, Robert Shaw, Weldon Taddy, Richard Ball, Jnr.









## Florodora

JOHN MARKLE as Cyrus Gilfain.

Right:

JEAN BRASCHUK as Dolores and WREFORD JOHNSTON as Frank Abercoed

A high tribute must be paid to Mr. John Markle. Just before the show opened he received news that his son, overseas on operational duty with the R.C.A.F., was missing in action. Mr. Markle, like the royal trooper he is, carried on and very few knew of his bad news. We are happy to relate that at a later date the family heard their son was safe, and he is now home again and once more taking an active part.













Two Chorus members in their colorful costumes

Mr. John Rule who had joined the Navy was not available for the direction of "Florodora," but we were very fortunate in having Mr. Laurier Picard to carry on for us. He made an excellent job of this show, and others that followed. About this time "man shortage" trouble began to put in an appearance and the Dramatic Director had quite a time filling in the sextette. If they could sing they could not dance and vice-versa, but finally he came up with a very creditable team who sang the feature song, "Tell Me Pretty Maiden", with gusto and



English Girls

A cheque for \$500.00 was presented to the Northern Alberta Branch of the Merchant Marine, Navy League of Canada, to aid in their work.

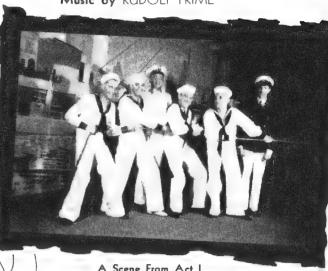
Direfly A Musical Play in Three Acts

Book by OTTO HARBACK

Music by RUDOLF FRIML







A Scene From Act I

Prin	scin.	ı١	Charac	tore
FILE	ICID	31	Charac	crers

, mcpar	Citatacters	
SYBIL VAN DARE		Isabelle Mazer
SUZETTE		
PIETRO		.Leo Moreau
JENKINS		Desmond Olsen
GERALDINE VAN DARE		Shirley Neher
JACK TRAVERS		Joseph Nadeau '
JOHN THURSTON		
HERR FRANZ		. John R. Wilson
NINA		
MRS. GODFREY VAN DARE		. Jacquie Battersby
CORELLI		Richard Ball
POLICEMAN		Roland Huggett
ANIONIO		. Ella Penin
CAPTAIN		.Thomas J. Davies

Musical Director, Mrs. J. B. Carmichael Dramatic Director, Laurier Picard

Chorus Director, Imelda Olsen Ballet, Juneau Moore



Berneice McBeth as Suzette

The exigencies of war deprived us of the use of the Empire Theatre, it being taken over by the Amercans, lock, stock and barrel, for office use in connection with the building of the Alaska Highway, a war project of the utmost urgency at this time. It looked as though the Civic Opera Society would have to fold its tent, at least for the duration of the war. Mr. Entwistle was approached to see if he would consider letting us have the use of the Strand, the only other theatre in town with modern stage and equipment necessary for productions of our type and size. At great inconvenience and loss of revenue, we are sure, Mr. Entwistle and his associates agreed to let us run our play three days in the middle of the week. "Firefly" was the first show put on at the Strand and a happy choice it was. The tuneful melodies, sparkling humour and complicated situations that develop as the play goes on were a delight to the audiences, many of whom were Americans, visiting us while carrying out their war duties. Much surprise was expressed by a number of our American friends that Edmonton had such a large Society as the Civic Opera Company, which it had supported loyally for many years, and they were delighted with the quality of our local talent.



Noreen Bristow as Nina John R. Wilson as Herr Franz

## Katinka

#### A MUSICAL PLAY IN THREE ACTS

Book and Lyrics by OTTO HARBACK

Music by RUDOLF FRIML

STRAND THEATRE, APRIL 18th, 19th, 20th, 1944



Marie Adkisson as Olga



Ella Pepin and Hazel Bunkall



Group of girls from the Chorus. Mrs. Olsen, Chorus Director, second from right.



#### Principal Characters

VARENKABrownie Burnett BORIS STROGOFFJohn Markle
KATINKA
TATIANA
IVAN DIMITRIJoseph Nadeau
THADDEUS HOPPERLaurier Picard
HELENShirley Neher
KNOPF Desmond Olsen
ARIF BEYPaul Hervieux
OLGA Marie Adkisson
PETROF
HALIF
ABDULJ. Atherton Manro
DETECTIVE
PIERRE J. Dwight Robinson
FIRST GIRLJean Rhice
SECOND GIRL

The Russian flavour of this popular musical play was very timely and a tribute to our gallant ally who was fighting so brilliantly at this time. It was our second and destined to be our last production in the Strand Theatre, also it was a most difficult job to get together a satisfactory cast. The war had really laid its heavy hand on the Society's manpower, and to some extent the woman-power also. Mr. Picard did yeoman service directing the show and taking the leading comic role, and the finished show was well up to standard







Chorus Director, Imelda Olsen

Ballet,



Noreen Bristow as Katinka



Juneau Moore



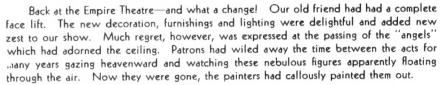
A MUSICAL ROMANCE OF THE SPANISH MAIN

A Comic Opera in Two Acts

EMPIRE THEATRE, NOVEMBER 9th, 10th, 11th, 1944

Music by SIGMUND ROMBERG





Left: A picture of Mrs. J. B. Carmichael and David Oldham taken at the conclusion of the run. The happy expressions on their faces testify to the success of the show.



#### Principal Characters

CAPTAIN DUVAL Wreford Johnston DOORKEEPER OF VICOMTE RIBAUD John Markle FLOWER GIRL.  M. FOUCHETTE Maurice Rookwood THE PROPRIETO ROBERT MISSON David Oldman PHILIPPE ALEXANDER GEORGE COOK CLOTILDE LOMI	AUNOIR Shirley Neher F TAVERN Sidney De Boer Margot Robertson Ernest Poetschke Joseph Nadeau BASTE Eleanor Bowerman AN Orest M. Demco
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Musical Director, Mrs. J. B. Carmichael Dramatic Director, Laurier Picard Chorus Director Mrs. B. I. Olsen Ballet, Juneau Moore









Striking Pictures from "New Moon"



David Oldham as Robert Misson. Shirley Neher as Marianna Beaunoir.

Shirley McDonald as Julie



Clotilde

Alexander

Julie

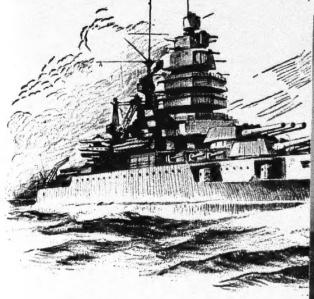
"New Moon" was a good show. It played for four nights and a matinee to well filled houses. Our musical director said the dress rehearsal was terrible and she was afraid to raise the curtain, however, we surprised her and the opening night was successful, so were all succeeding performances. The big event of the production was our leading man, who was brought from Vancouver. He came with quite a reputation behind him and Edmonton people expected a lot. David Oldham did not disappoint us, neither did Shirley Neher, who played with him as leading lady. A new discovery was made in comediennes, Shirley McDonald and Eleanor Bowerman. Patrons who saw "New Moon" will long remember the antics of these two young talented ladies, especially in the fighting scene. They were ably supported in their work by George Cook who was an outstanding success in his own right.

#### Musical Embarassing Moments

"That is the most atrocious singing I ever heard," remarked a woman to the meek little man sitting beside her. "I wonder who she is?" "She is my wife," was the startling reply of the little man." Oh, I beg your pardon," responded the woman, flushed. "The fault may lie with the music, which is really barbarous. Have you any idea who composed it?" "Yes, madam," replied the meek little man, "I did."



Where Our Surplus Funds Go





H.M.C.S. STETTLER

The Town of Stettler and the Edmonton Civic Opera Company undertook to supply the officers and men with many extra comforts and luxuries not supplied by the authorities to make their life at sea more comfortable. Many extras such as steam presses, irons, electric plates, games, subscription to popular magazines, and shaving equipment were sent to the crew from time to time, and at Christmas the Society sent a parcel of good cheer to every man on board, personally addressed. Appreciation of the action of the Society was expressed in many letters received from officers and men.

The public are naturally interested in the disposal of the profits of such an organization as The Edmonton Civic Opera Society. Not all shows make us a profit. Royalties are high and some productions cost more to produce than estimated, but all receipts in excess of disbursements are devoted either to Musical Scholarships or accredited Charities. During the war years most of our surplus funds have been given to War Charities. In the ten years of its existence the Society has made the following larger contributions to the cultural life of this community and war charities:



1937-Scholarship to Egon Grapentin, \$300.00.

1938-Scholarship to Noreen Bristow, \$300.00.

1940 Return of Dorothy Blackwell Gardner for "Carmen," \$400.00.

1941-Canadian Red Cross Ambulance Fund, \$1,000.00.

1942-Navy League of Canada, \$500.00.

1943—Queen's Canadian Fund for Bombed-out Victims in Great Britain, \$1,000.00.

-Christmas parcels and special equipment sent to the officers and men of H.M.C.S. "Stettler", \$750.00.

1944—Scholarship to Shirley Neher, \$300.00. (Held in trust until Miss Neher has favourable opportunity to use it.)

Reserve Account invested in War Bonds and held in trust to finance future productions and scholarships, \$2,300.00.

When conditions warrant scholarships will once more be awarded to send our most promising young people to the centres of Musical culture in eastern Canada and United States.



TOMMY TASKER 'Our Man in Front'

Mr. Tom Tasker, our congenial front office man, who has done much to smooth the way of the Opera Society. He has been in charge of ticket sales at the theatre and mail order. In recent years he has acted as our publicity man and has been ably assisted by George Wells.

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